

September 17, 2019



Rt. Honourable David Johnston
Leaders' Debate Commission
Jaanu.varaprasatham@debates-debats.ca

Dear Hon. Johnston,

I am troubled by your decision to allow the leader of the People's Party of Canada in the debates. It is wrong that Mr. Bernier be given a platform to promote an ideology of hate that spreads prejudice and disinformation.

Mr. Bernier has courted racists to run for his party. He frequently promotes damaging conspiracy theories on his social media pages. And he has been [photographed](#) with far-right hate groups with neo-Nazi ties.

And just this month, he [publicly attacked](#) a 16 year-old climate activist.

These are not the actions of a person who has earned the privilege of promoting their agenda on a national stage.

In addition to our serious concerns about Mr. Bernier's hateful views, we disagree with your analysis that Mr. Bernier meets two of the three conditions for participation. Most informed political analysts believe his party is unlikely to gain seats in this election.

Canadians deserve to hear an open political debate between different points of view. They are not well served by a debate that instead needs to spend its time defending values that are already at the core of what Canadians believe.

I urge you to reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,

Jagmeet Singh
Leader, Canada's New Democratic Party